

# Alarming Supreme Court Rulings

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# Introduction

- I'm working hard to understand what's really happening, why, and how we can make the world a better place
- Supreme Court picked by president, approved by senate
- Reflects values of politicians, not voters
- Today's talk is about current rulings (not overturned rulings)

# Buying Elections 1

- Corporations have no election spending limits
- Corporations can buy elections
- Citizens United vs FEC (Federal Election Commission) (2010)

# Buying Elections 2

- Billionaires have no contribution limit to PACs
- Created Super PACs (Political Action Committee)
- SpeechNow vs FEC (2010)
- Court of Appeals, not Supreme Court

# Buying Elections 3

- Billionaires can donate to an unlimited number of politicians
- McCutcheon v. FEC (2014)

# Lost Government Accountability 1

- Civil rights act of 1871 allowed suing for violated rights
- 100 years later court overturned act
- Court created qualified immunity in Pierson vs Ray (1967)
- Protects agents from civil liability
- Justice Sotomayor 2018 "absolute shield for law enforcement officers"

# Lost Government Accountability 2

- Impractical to sue government
- Plaintiff must show a pattern or custom of mistreatment, very difficult
- Government has no inherent responsibility for police, employees
- Another court-created principle
- Monell vs New York Social Services (1978)

# Reduced Right to Vote 1

- Voting rights act of 1965 protected minority vote
- Shelby County vs Holder (2013) destroyed federal oversight
- Southern states quickly made voting harder for blacks
- Longer poll lines, fewer voting places, purged voters, voter ID laws, ...
- Racism promoting other forms of government-sponsored racism



# Reduced Right to Vote 2

- Many ex-felons can't vote (felony voter disenfranchisement)
- Convicted felons may be constitutionally disenfranchised
- Richardson v. Ramirez (1974)

# Reduced Right to Vote 3

- Conservative Bush was selected president by a conservative court
- Allowed for sloppy vote tabulation in Florida
- Bush vs Gore (2000)

# Reduced Right To Vote 4

- US territories do not have full constitutional rights
- American Samoa, Guam, Northern Mariana Islands, Puerto Rico, U.S. Virgin Islands
- These US citizens do not vote for president
- Relative poor, dark people
- Insular cases (1901)

# Protecting The System

- Establishment protects itself
- Police, politicians, plutocrats rarely charged
- My charges against police and politicians were ignored
- No appeals or supreme court cases to cite

# Summary

- Status quo protects itself, its power
- Wealth buys politicians then more wealth
- Negligible civil & criminal recourse for the abused
- System targets poor, minorities
- Can't vote your way out of being marginalized
- Reform needed!



# Enjoy Nature

